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Title:

Statement: Release from ALP Convention speech

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... June 13, 1976.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

RELEASE FROM A.L.P. CONVENTION SPEECH

The Labor Party in South Australia was still in a critical situation, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said tonight.

"There is no doubt that the anti-Labor forces are looking desperately for anyway, legitimate or otherwise, of forcing Labor from Government," the Premier said.

"The Liberal Party and its part-time paramour, the Liberal Movement, are trying to present a facade of unity despite serious differences of principle among their members. They are trying to convince the people, and in many cases they are trying desperately to convince themselves, that they are a credible alternative government.

"They are not, of course. The Liberal Party in this State has no policies, no principles, no underlying philosophy for the advancement of South Australia and the betterment of the lives of South Australians.

"They are completely negative; their only answer to any question is to knock the Labor Government's achievements.

"Should they ever achieve office, no-one in the Labor Movement should be in any doubt as to what the State Liberals will do. Just as Malcolm Fraser has systematically set out to destroy all the advances made by the Federal Labor Government, so the Liberals will try to set aside all the advances we have made in South Australia.

"They would set out to interfere with the Constitution to negate our victory in the fight for a democratic system of representation, they would try to reduce payments and entitlements of workers compensation, they would wind down the levels of Government services (the hospitals, schools, community welfare centres, the consumer protection bodies, new buses and trains) and they would transfer real income back to the people whose money keeps the Liberal Party going.



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"We cannot afford to be complacent: There is still a real danger to the Labor Movement.

"We won last year, but we are on a knife-edge without an A.L.P. majority in either House. The Liberals are looking for any occasion to overthrow us.

"The Liberals are better funded, better professionally served and better organised at every level than at any time in their history.

"And just as we cannot afford the luxury of complacency, nor can we afford the luxury of division or faction fighting.

"Labor's job is to unite with it all the support it can get for its platform and policies so that we can maintain a majority support within the community.

"The significant gains made by Labor since 1970 must be preserved.

"Mr. Fraser is hell bent on destroying the advances Australia made under a Federal Labor Government, Medibank, wage indexation, education funds, environmental protection, regional development and public housing are all to be thrown out by a Prime Minister who wants to put hundreds of thousands of people out of work because he believes that in some unexplained, unworkable way that it will help the economy recover".

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